



## EPA Region 10 Tribal Hot Topics for RTOC - Spring 2014



### National Tribal News

#### **Tribal Environmental Priorities**

EPA's Regional Tribal Caucuses presented FY15 tribal environmental priorities and resource needs to the National Tribal Operations Committee in April. These presentations aim to help inform future budget and program planning efforts.

#### **EPA Administrator Addresses NCAI**

Administrator Gina McCarthy addressed the National Congress of American Indians at their Executive Council winter session in Washington D.C. in March. She re-affirmed the Agency's commitments to strengthening tribal partnerships and protecting the health of tribal communities, and she apologized sincerely for remarks regarding gifts received in Alaska.

#### **Environmental Justice Training**

All EPA employees will be required to complete a new EJ 101: Introduction to Environmental Justice training online in FY14. Headquarters and Regional offices held several Environmental Justice Month events in February.

### R10 Tribal Program

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#### **R10 IGAP Proposals & Applications**

Tribal Coordinators are continuing work to review and negotiate FY15 IGAP proposals. Final applications are due May 20! Grants Specialists are starting to review and process applications and planning to make awards by September 1, 2014.

#### **Changes in R10 Staff & Management**

Several EPA employees have retired recently. R10's Tribal Program will miss WA Tribal Coordinator Diana Boquist, Tribal Specialist Keith Cohon, Grants Manager Armina Nolan, and Grants Specialists Paul Steele and Bob Phillips especially. And we congratulate AK Tribal Coordinator Tami Fordham, who is now serving as Deputy Director of our AK Operations Office!

#### **R10 ETEP Development Process**

The EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan Planning and Implementation Team is continuing work on processes and on creating EPA's parts of ETEPs. R10 is developing ETEPs with 30 tribes in FY14, and planning to develop 50 more each year.

### R10 Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs

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#### **Updated High Priority Projects List**

R10 has updated this summary of large-scale projects considered high priority for NEPA and CWA §404 reviews. This list is being used to foster coordination among programs and agencies and it is available to tribes on the RTOC website.

#### **EPA Moves to Protect Bristol Bay**

The EPA has initiated a CWA §404(c) review process to identify options to protect the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska from potentially destructive impacts associated with the proposed Pebble Mine. During this process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot issue a CWA §404 permit. <http://www2.epa.gov/bristolbay>

#### **New Community Engagement Manager**

Peter Murchie has been selected to serve as the permanent Community Engagement and Environmental Health Unit Manager! He has extensive experience in working with communities and in forming partnerships to bring about change.

### R10 Office of Compliance and Enforcement

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#### **Proposed Agriculture Worker Protections**

The EPA has proposed changes to the Agriculture Worker Protection Standard to protect employees on farms and in forests, nurseries, and greenhouses from occupational exposure to pesticides. Comments will be accepted until June 17.

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## R10 Office of Environmental Assessment

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### Climate & Indian Country Webinars

The President's Climate Task Force is hosting a series of webinars April 3-May 1 to support outreach to and solicit feedback from tribes. Topics will include: disaster response and recovery; built systems and infrastructure; natural resources and agriculture; and communities' health and development. [energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training/](https://energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training/)

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## R10 Office of Water and Watersheds

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### New OWW Tribal Specialist

Catherine Gockel has been selected to serve as the new Tribal Specialist for R10's Office of Water and Watersheds. She also serves as a permit writer and has experience with tribal, environmental justice, and international issues and projects.

### Fish Consumption & Health Criteria

The Washington DOE will issue proposed rules regarding human health criteria and implementation tools for public comment soon. The Alaska DEC is starting to reach out to stakeholders about a potential future rulemaking. The EPA remains involved in Idaho's negotiated rulemaking meetings and in managing the tribal fish consumption surveys contract.

### Clarifying Stream & Wetland Protections

The EPA and ACOE jointly released a proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule in March that clarifies CWA protections for seasonal and rain dependent streams and wetlands. A 90 day comment period will open soon. [www2.epa.gov/uswaters](http://www2.epa.gov/uswaters)

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## R10 Office of Air, Waste, and Toxics

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Fran Stefan (Waste & Toxics): [stefan.fran@epa.gov](mailto:stefan.fran@epa.gov) ; (206) 553-6639

### Rural AK Dust Control Collaboration

R10 has established a Rural Alaska Dust Workgroup including representatives from BIA, DOT, ADEC, ADOT, tribes, and industry. They plan to support tribal implementation and to offer training at the AK Tribal Transportation Symposium in April.

### New Tribal Solid Waste Performance Measure

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response is developing a new Tribal Solid Waste performance measure for the EPA to use in assessing our progress. OSWER will convene a consultation call in late April or early May to gather early input on the type of measure tribes would find valuable, and plans to offer formal consultation on the draft final measure.

### Tribal Healthy Homes Northwest

THHNW received a Clean Air Excellence Award in April. This tribally-led network connects tribes, consortia, agencies, non-profits and researchers to advance safe healthy living environments for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

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## R10 Office of Environmental Cleanup

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### Navajo Uranium Mine Cleanup

As part of the largest bankruptcy-related settlement for environmental cleanup in U.S. history, the EPA and the DOJ have secured ~\$1 billion in funds for cleaning up 50 or 10% of the abandoned uranium mines on Navajo Nation lands.

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## R10 Office of Management Programs

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### Applications Through Grants.gov

The Office of Grants and Debarment is developing a policy to require that all applications for EPA assistance be submitted through Grants.gov. An informational session about Grants.gov will be offered April 29. [epa.gov/ogd/training/recipe\\_train.htm](https://epa.gov/ogd/training/recipe_train.htm)

### Update SAM Registrations Now

The Central Contractor Registry was replaced by the System for Award Management last year. All organizations must update their SAM registrations annually, and registrations must be current to receive EPA awards. [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)